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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—CINDERELLA—A
BRIGHT SCENE.
BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—MONEY—JACK SHEPARD
WENT TO THE WINDY HILL.BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—MONEY—JACK SHEPARD
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one of the gentlemen composing the firm of Page,

A resolution was offered in the Board of Aldermen last evening, recommending the appointment of a special committee of five, to act in conjunction with a similar committee from the Board of Councilmen, to proceed to Albany and procure the passage of such amendments to the city charter as would, in their judgment, most conduce to the interest of the city. The resolution gave rise to considerable discussion, and after an animated debate, was referred to the Committee on Laws. A resolution to tax city railroad cars was also offered, which, after being amended, was referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

Nothing of very especial interest came up in the Board of Councilmen last evening. Mayor Wood's first veto was received in relation to a resolution of the Board directing the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies to employ men to take down the ruins of the City Hall. The resolution was vetoed, on the ground that the mode in which the work was directed to be done conflicted with the city charter.

Cotton continued quite firm yesterday, and the sales reached about 4,500 bales; about 1,500 a 2,000 were on the spot, and the remainder in transit. The market closed in favor of sellers. We quote middling Uplands at 8 1/2c, Florida at 8 1/2c a 8 3/4c; Mobile at 8 1/2c, and New Orleans and Texas at 8 1/2c. State and Western brands of flour were unchanged, with moderate sales. Canadian flour was something easier at Saturday's rates. Southern continued dull. Wheat was nominal. Indian corn favored purchasers, closing at 10 1/2c for Southern white and yellow. An extra lot of Southern white sold at 10 1/2c. Mixed was dull. Provisions were at about Saturday's quotations, with moderate transactions. About 500 hhd. lard and 500 boxes short middles of bacon were sold, deliverable on ship board, at Baltimore, for export, the former at 10c, and the latter at 7 1/2c.

The Old Women's Conventions of the Day and the New Revolution.

They have been holding for some days past, at New Orleans, another of those curious powwows, called Southern Commercial Conventions, and they have been proposing various devices for developing the resources, stirring up the dormant industry, and for establishing the commercial independence of the South. Among these devices they propose that the Pacific railroad shall go by some Southern route, tapping the Atlantic at Charleston—thus public lands ought to be voted liberally to Southern railroads—that Cuba must be had—and that it would be a good thing to re-establish the slave trade between the baroque of the coast of Africa, and the neglected seaports of Mexico.

Such are some of the principal expedients laid before this Southern Convention at New Orleans, the great object of which is to devise the ways and means for rendering the South wholly independent of the North in domestic manufactures and foreign commerce. Well, the old women in both hemispheres have lately been stirring themselves, and holding all sorts of conventions upon matters of science, religion, politics and trade; and this New Orleans Convention may be classed among them. The gravity and practical utility of its proceedings are only surpassed by the awful and pompous solemnity of the doings of the late grand council at Rome, upon the paramount question of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. If the learned Roman hierarchy have unanimously authorized the Pope to decree to the allied armies at Sebastopol, "and the rest of mankind," the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin as a dogma of faith, and as the true road to the golden streets of the New Jerusalem, so is the New Orleans convention equally unanimous in favor of a Southern railroad as the true route to the gold mines of California.

Upon other subjects the practical utility of the propositions entering into the deliberations of the New Orleans convention are not at all in par with the resolutions of our women's rights, and other old granny conventions of the North. If the New Orleans reformers have resolved that we must have Cuba, our women's rights women have resolved, over and over again, that they must have the right of suffrage, the right to run for Congress or the Legislature, for President or for Governor; and an equal right to the public plunder, as well as the right to wear the breeches. And if it has been proposed at New Orleans to take measures for reopening the African slave trade with Africa, our old granny conventions of the North, of both sexes and all colors, have been resolving for twenty years past, that slavery and all distinctions of color shall be abolished. So, too, if our Southern conventions have decreed in favor of liberal grants of the public domain to Southern railroads, our land reformers of the North, old women included, are working away like beavers for the cession of all the public lands in free farms to actual squatters; upon the dogma of the Hutchinson family, that

Uncle Sam is rich enough
To give us all a farm.
Even the great cardinal measure of these Southern conventions—that of establishing the benefits of direct trade and free trade between Southern and European ports—is eclipsed by the proclamation of Miss Frederica Bremer, which proposes nothing less than a universal association of ladies, young and old, of all Christendom, for the abolition of sin and misery throughout the world.

No, no! Southern abstraction conventions, and speeches, and resolutions, will no more alter the laws and channels of trade, nor build Pacific railroads, nor secure the island of Cuba, nor re-establish the slave trade, than will our women's rights and old granny reforming conventions and coteries of the North abolish the existing laws of society. Action, enterprise, capital, and well directed industry are the instruments for developing the resources and wealth of the South. If they would have direct trade with Europe, they must put their ships upon the sea; if they would have manufactures, they must erect them. They have the water power, the climate, the raw materials—all the required natural advantages for successful competition with the North. If they would have railroads, they must look to other sources than the federal treasury; and if they would have a Pacific railroad by the Southern route, ten good lobby men, well armed with the silens of war, at Washington, will avail more than a Southern convention of ten thousand men at New Orleans.

It is gratifying to know that of late years, in Virginia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia, and other Southern States, they have been going to work in factories, foundries, railroads, and other practical enterprises, in the right way. Let the work be followed up after this fashion, and no Southern abstraction conventions and vast resources of the South. Mr. Wisc., of Virginia, in his stump speeches, is disclosing the true business policy of the Southern States. Let us hope that the day for the exhausting ex-

periments of intangible Southern abstractions

has passed away.
It is somewhat remarkable that this Southern convention at New Orleans appears to have closed its eyes to the "fixed fact" that a great and mysterious revolution is at work all over this country; a moral and political revolution which is rapidly casting overboard all the old women's platforms, all the schemes of Northern philopshophers and Southern reformers, together with all the rubbish and clap-trap of old political fogies, old party bucksters, and all the rusty and rotten machinery of old party juntas and Baltimore conventions. Strange, too, that this New Orleans convention, in this connection, have not discovered the folly of resolving that we must have Cuba, whatever obstacles may interpose.

We say that a great revolution is at work, mysteriously but potentially working out a new order of things in this country. It was commenced under an eccentric and equivocal designation, as most great revolutions do begin; but it is developing a strength which is irresistible, and an onward tendency which cannot be arrested. It must supersede for the time, all purely sectional schemes, political or commercial; all the old party issues of the country; all whig and democratic arrangements, local or general; all Cabinet plots and intrigues for the succession—for this new revolution must go on till its work is accomplished. Recognizing it, too, as a great spontaneous uprising of the people, politicians and reformers must submit to be carried with the current or to be driven ashore.

It is a great conservative revolutionary movement, comprehensive in its scope, and beneficent in its tendencies, in the extirpation of the rottenness and corruptions which have caused the old parties of the day to sink in the nostrils of the nation; and beneficent, in restoring, upon the basis of the constitution, the ancient harmonies of all sections of the Union. To this end the New Orleans convention may be too fast upon the Cuba question. Mr. Calhoun's idea of a Southern sectional balance of power somewhere in the government, is as nearly attained as can be in the Senate, without a dangerous disturbance of the existing general equilibrium. The acquisition of Cuba as a slave State, without some equivalent concession to the North, in this view, it will now be difficult to achieve; and the British provinces to the north of us are not yet ripe for annexation.

The truth is, that judging from this great national conservative movement of the Know Nothings, which discountenances the revival of the anti-slavery agitation, which aims to restore harmony between the North and the South, which holds to the exact doctrine of non-interference in the domestic affairs of the several States, which appreciates the hazards of attempting, yet for a season, the further acquisition of foreign territories—judging, we say, from these aspects of this conservative movement, we doubt whether, for some years yet to come, we shall annex Cuba, or Mexico, or the Sandwich Islands, or any other outside country whatever.

Here, then, is our position. While the old women of both the Old World and the New are holding their political, social, religious and commercial conventions, and while the old party bucksters of the day, in and out of the Cabinet, North and South, are laying their pipe and shaping their plans for the next swindling national council at Baltimore, we are endeavoring to open the eyes of all concerned to the vanity of their labors, in view of the great revolution undertaken, and under way, by the spontaneous action of the American people. Clear the track!

More of Flagg's Economy.

Decidedly the most amusing exposure of Mr. Comptroller Flagg's financiering was contained in the report of the Corporation Committee of Ways and Supplies, published in yesterday's paper. It seems that the Comptroller has been in the habit of advertising under the ordinances for tenders for supplying the Corporation and its departments with stationery; but, instead of awarding the whole job to the lowest tender, as the law provides, Mr. Flagg selects from the tenders of each the articles set down at the lowest rates, and thus makes a contract with half a dozen houses instead of one. Now, it is quite obvious to every one who is acquainted with business that a stationer, like every other merchant, cannot afford to sell a lot of goods worth \$100 at the same rate of profit as he would a lot worth \$1,000. The stationers who tendered at Flagg's request—there were only seven, most of the trade having seen too much of Flagg's mode of doing business to desire to deal with him—threw in some articles at lower rates, proportionately, than others, looking to the aggregate profit to make the account square. To their dire confusion, Flagg has picked out of each tender the very articles they thus threw in almost at a loss, and selected the other items. The consequence is that in the words of the committee, "it is utterly impossible to procure even the most ordinary description of articles at the prices named." Our experience of Corporation doings leaves us in no doubt as to what the result will be. As was done in the case of the street contractors, the contracts will not be fulfilled, and the city will be compelled to pay full retail prices for all its stationery. Needless to add that Flagg acted in defiance of law. No such dissection of tenders was contemplated by the charter or ordinances; the framers of those laws directed the award to be made to the lowest bidder, regarding each tender as an integral whole.

Thus Flagg saves the money of the people of New York. If he contented himself with breaking the law, and setting the Legislature and Common Council at defiance, looking out the while for the public welfare and interest, some excuse might be urged for his refractory temper. But to violate the law and at the same time to save the public expenditure by adhering to his selfish crochets of his own, is too much to be borne in silence. Let the Comptroller choose between his two propensities. Let him either bully the Common Council, and laugh at the laws, or keep a smooth face and increase the taxes. People might suffer Flagg to set law and authority at defiance if he was an economical guardian of the public money; or they might submit—being tolerably accustomed to do so—in his extravagance, if he set an example of subordination and respect for the popular will. But to be bullied and fleeced all at once is putting their temper to too severe a trial.

The fact is, we think Mr. Flagg's race is nearly run. We suspect he must have been deluding himself into the belief that he was a popular officer, and fancying, because the *Journal of Commerce* sustained him in bad English, that the people of New York were satisfied with his course as Comptroller. He will find out his mistake ere long. The exposure of his scheme to secure the city advertising for his party organ—the *Evening Post*—has not been forgotten. Nor are the public bled to the fact that the city advertisements are at present buried in journals which are not seen by more than one hundredth part of the population; and consequently that every cent paid to them for publishing Corporation matter is so much stolen from the public pocket. Mr. Flagg calls this economy: we call it extravagance. We think—and most people will agree with us—that it is absolutely wasteful to give \$1,000 a year for advertising to a newspaper which no one reads, whereas it might be economy to give \$20,000 for the insertion of the same matter in a journal which lies on every table in the city. Flagg considers it cheaper to act on the opposite principle, and to save \$19,000 by throwing away \$1,000 on the obscure journal. It is all a question of purpose. If the object of the Common Council was merely to see their notices in print, why there is no reason why the *Democrat* should not answer as well as the *Herald*; but if they wanted other people to see them, every child can perceive that whatever were the cost, they should be printed in papers which are read. The gross absurdity of the present arrangement with respect to the city printing, and the impudence of the report in which Flagg recommended that the future insertion of the city should be sacrificed to those of the *Evening Post*—not less than the ridiculous trick by which the stationers' tenders are to be nullified—can only be explained on the supposition that Flagg supposes he is highly popular, and dares anything.

He will find out his mistake. He has now been thoroughly tried and his merits are known. He is a man totally unfit to be entrusted with the functions of his present office. He is wedded to crochets and theories; is forever starting difficulties and objections to every useful proposition; never went straight to an object in his life, but creeps round, and beats the bush until all who deal with him become disgusted. His ideas of economy are invariably of the candle end order. He will refuse to pay a party clerk, on the ground that some trifling informality exists in his engagement, and will take advantage of his position to try to defraud half a dozen stationers; but the very consequence of these foolish endeavors to save a few dollars involves the city in an unnecessary expense of thousands. The clerk must be replaced at a high advance on his salary, and the cost of a lawsuit must be borne; the stationers refuse to submit to his dictation, and the city pays full retail instead of contract price; the streets, left dirty in consequence of Flagg's quarrel with the contractors, must be cleaned at an enormous advance on the stipulated price. He says he is right—he is actuated by principle, public spirit, and so on; but where is the use of these motives, if the result is invariably, uniformly detrimental to the public interest? What is the use of Flagg talking of his desire to be economical when under his administration the city taxes double in four years? It was the same thing at Albany, when Flagg and the Albany Regency ruled the roost: they were always talking of economy, and their superior zeal for the public good, and meanwhile the taxes were ever on the increase, and the State worse governed than at any former time. Flagg has not changed a hair since then; nor will he, so long as he is allowed to gratify his party predilections and his capricious disposition in the Comptroller's office.

But, while Wikoff gains popularity as an amusing raconteur, and fills his pockets with dollars, the people of sentiment are unanimous in execrating him as one of the most heartless speculators in love that ever feigned that heroic passion, and think that if Miss Gamble had occupied the other wing of the Genoa prison, and that if both had been confined there for three years, three months, three days and three hours, they would have received no more than their desert.

Barnum's book is the most vulgarly written, Greeley's is the most stupid, but Wikoff's has the style of a Chesterfield in his "Advice to his Son," with just a little moral principle, and just as little heroic sentiment of action. In literature Wikoff is a sort of Rousseau, deeply dashed with the modern politician and the Wall Street financier. The present book is probably the beginning of a literary career of a novel and eccentric character, and it is very probable that the Chevalier Wikoff will give us the other chapters of his life with the same naïveté, and in the same Chesterfieldian style, that has immortalized his courtship with Miss Gamble.

The Chevalier Wikoff was the predecessor of the Chevalier Barnum in theatrical humbug. It was Wikoff who first set all the American people running after a foreign figure—He originated the tactics which Barnum, as a puppet in the hands of Jenny Lind, afterwards adopted. Now, if Wikoff, with the spirit of the "Confessions of Rousseau," and in the style of Chesterfield, gives us the details of his escapade with Fanny Ellar through this country, it will sell even better than his account of the Gamble affair. Let him think of it. After that, he can give us a book on Louis Napoleon and his affairs; another on Lord Palmerston and the British diplomatic service; and every year produce a volume, sometimes on Russian, sometimes on Italian affairs. Then the Wikoff library will form a valuable addition to our standard literature, and take its place among the most valuable philosophical works.

THE CITY CHARTER IN THE LEGISLATURE.—Let the Legislature beware of adopting any of the foolish bills to reform the city charter which have gone from here to Albany. They are all, or nearly all, schemes originating in the disappointment of some office seeker who wants a place, and thinks he can get it under a new twist of the charter. If anything in the way of reforming the charter can be done, let it be by a bill placing matters on the old footing, and assimilating the city government to that of the federal Union, concentrating the whole responsibility on the Mayor and Aldermen. Then good government might be possible, and simplicity would be introduced into every department. But not till then.

THE CALAMITY AT FORT WASHINGTON.—There was a report in town yesterday that Miss Anna Langdon had died from the effects of the suffocation she experienced at the burning of the residence of her father, on Saturday morning last. We are happy to learn that such is not the case, she is living, and yesterday pronounced out of danger by her physician. It will be recalled that Miss Anna Langdon was the one rescued by Mr. Hopkins, her brother-in-law, from the balcony window.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Important from Washington.
RESIGNATION OF MR. SOULE, MINISTER TO SPAIN—APPOINTMENT AND FILM OF MR. BRECKENRIDGE, OF KY., TO FILL THE VACANCY—PROBABLE CHANGES IN THE CABINET, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1855.
The truth of the announcement made in the *Herald* on Tuesday last, that Mr. Soule had resigned, has been established to-day in a manner which leaves no room for doubt, and is another instance of the reliability of your information.

John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, was nominated this afternoon as Minister to Spain, and confirmed unanimously, by vote, 90 to 0.

The dangerous illness of Mr. Mason in Paris, and the probable vacancy in the mission, has hastened the completion of the programme which has for some time been in contemplation for a change in the Cabinet.

Very recently Mr. Buchanan was written to to exchange places with Marcy, who has determined to leave the State Department, and for the last six months has only been looking for a safe retreat in a first class mission, and Mr. Mason's illness will probably furnish an opening sooner than could be provided by Buchanan's return.

It is known that Buchanan will not accept the State Department, his friends alleging that he is much too smart to allow himself to be the legatee of Marcy's blunders.

Mr. Guthrie will also go out.
This change in the State and Treasury departments involves, of course, a complete reorganization of the Cabinet. What further has been determined upon we are not at liberty to state in detail, but the following changes are not improbable, viz.:

That ex-Governor Key, of New York, now here, and ex-Governor Cobb, of Georgia, will fill the vacancies, and should Cushing be provided with a mission, Tooley, of Connecticut, will also be called upon.

Mr. Cushing is struggling for the State Department, but Pierce alone is favorable to him—all the leaders of the democratic party desiring that he should leave the Cabinet. If both the English and French missions become vacant it is more than probable Cushing will receive one of them.

There is no doubt that strong Buchanan influence is at work here, and these are some of the results.
The change in the Cabinet carries with it a change in the foreign policy of the administration, which now, owing to Marcy's influence, is anti-progressive, anti-Cuba, and anti-inaugural.

Mr. Sill, upon seeing the announcement in last week's *Herald* of Soule's resignation, became alarmed, and at once posted for Baton Rouge, to look after his reelection to the Senate. Mr. Soule having written to his friends to present him, Sill's chances are minute.

RESIGNATION OF MR. SOULE, MINISTER TO SPAIN—APPOINTMENT OF HIS SUCCESSOR—THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, ETC., ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1855.
The Hon. Pierre Soule has resigned his office as Minister to Spain, and John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, has been appointed as his successor, and will be confirmed to-morrow.

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met this morning, and disposed of all questions of controversy between Professor Henry and others, by a large majority; two only voting against the present management. It is rumored that the minority members refused to attend any further meetings of the board. Adjourned to meet again on Saturday, 27th January.

The Northern mail train from Baltimore was detained two hours and a half this evening, by the breaking of the cylinder at the head of the engine, when about twelve miles from that city.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1855.
No. 42—Peter J. Burchell, appellant, vs. Stewart C. Marsh, et al. Argument was commenced by Mr. Gillett for the appellants, and continued by E. B. Washburne, Esq. for the appellees.

Pennsylvania Legislature.
ELECTION OF STATE TREASURER.
HARRISBURG, Jan. 15, 1855.
El. Siffer, native American, was elected by the Legislature State Treasurer to-day. The vote was as follows:—Siffer, 60; E. W. Hamlin, democrat, 35; scattering, 4.

Postponement of a Trial for Murder.
BRIDGEPORT, Jan. 15, 1855.
The trial of Alfred Fyler, for the murder of his wife, has been postponed until February, on account of the absence of important witnesses.

Latest from the Capital.
INSURANCE COMPANIES—NATIONAL ELECTION.—AMEND TO THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER—MONUMENT TO COL. BAXTER—THE CITY LAWS, ETC.
ALBANY, Jan. 15, 1855.
There was a quorum present in both houses this morning, though the Assembly was rather thin, more than one-third being absent, and among them a majority of the New York city delegation. They ought to be more prompt, especially as they can make the passage from Thirty-first street to the capital in four hours.

In the Senate, Mr. Field, at the request of a New York senator, (Mr. Barr), gave notice of a bill relative to city railroads. What its provisions are is not distinctly known, as it has not yet been perfected.

Mr. Speace said he should introduce a bill to enable the school of the Five Points House of Industry to participate in the distribution of the common school fund of the State. If correctly drawn, such a bill will receive approval.

Mr. Speace laid on the table a resolution instructing the Committee on Insurance Companies to inquire into the expediency of so amending the general insurance law, as to prohibit mutual insurance companies from issuing policies of property out of the judicial district in which they are located, and to prevent companies located in other States, whose capital assets are wholly or in part of premium notes, from issuing policies upon property in this State; and to inquire into the expediency of making appropriation so as to enable the Comptroller, to pay agents to examine insurance companies, in cases where such companies refuse or are unable to pay the expense of such examination.

The Senate, in committee, passed the Assembly bill to facilitate the Senatorial election in the Twenty-first district. There was no opposition, and the silence of the Senate was presumptive evidence that the person elected cannot be so false to the laws of the State as to be elected in the Twenty-first district.

Mr. Waterbury has introduced a bill, providing for the creation of a monument to the memory of the late Col. Baxter, and other officers, who fell in the Mexican war. It provides for the appropriation of five thousand dollars, to be expended in the purchase of land, and the erection of a monument, to be erected in the Greenwald Cemetery, where the remains of those gallant officers repose. The money to be placed at the disposal of the Governor of the State, and that he take the necessary steps to secure its execution.

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